



540AE [2681.3128.001]

3727.
\$
#8/a
11/6/04
21/49

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Rainer Schmidt et al**
Serial No. 10/043,996
Filed: January 11, 2002
For: Fuel Tank
Group Art Unit: 3727
Examiner: Joseph Man Moy
In reply to: Examiner's Letter of September 24, 2003

RECEIVED
DEC 24 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Certificate of Mailing

Date of Deposit with the U.S. Postal Service **DECEMBER 15, 2003**. I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Shirley A. Langley
Shirley A. Langley

Mail Stop – FEE Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

This is in response to the first office Action of September 24, 2003 which allowed claims 1-7, indicated claims 1-14 would be allowable if placed in independent form, rejected claims 8 and 9 under §103, and withdrew from consideration claims 15-20.

12/19/2003 MAHME1 00000089 10043996

01 FC:1201

86.00 OP

BEST AVAILABLE COPY